



**WILLIAMSON COUNTY**  
**Department of Sewage Disposal Management**  
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## **INFORMATION REGARDING IRRIGATION SYSTEMS RELATIVE TO SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

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*No irrigation systems, or their components thereof, shall encroach on, in or within 10-feet of the boundaries of the designated or platted subsurface sewage disposal system areas. They shall also be located a minimum of 5-feet away from any drainage improvement practice (e.g., curtain drain, etc.) associated with the subsurface sewage disposal system areas.*

These regulations are based upon state law requirements that all potable water piping networks be maintained a minimum of 10-feet from all aspects of the septic system in order to prevent potential cross-contamination. Additionally, in many cases during the installation of the irrigation system piping network, septic system lines are cut, pipes are broken, etc. which could lead to a failure of the septic system in the form of sewage effluent surfacing on the ground and creating a health hazard.

Although this department does not encourage the use of irrigation systems in any form within proximity of a septic system, there are various options that can be pursued in order for a homeowner to achieve their desire of having a green lawn during the summer. The key to successfully integrating an irrigation system onto a septic system lot is to design the irrigation system such that it will not over saturate the soil which potentially leads to hydraulic overloading and septic system failure. The design of the controllers and the placement of the irrigation heads can be such that the lawn is adequately watered without violating the setback regulations or over saturating the soil. The department is always willing to work with homeowners and irrigation professionals in order to minimize any potential conflict.

If there are questions about the information in this notice or the need for more detailed information about how to successfully integrate irrigation systems onto septic system lots please give the department a call at the number listed above.